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**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Third session**
Nairobi, 4–6 December 2017

Draft resolution on environment and health

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 adopting the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and its goals and targets;

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled 'The Future We Want';

Also recalling the report of the Executive Director for the 2nd meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly "Healthy Environment, Healthy People"[1];

Welcoming the entering into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury on 16 August 2017;

Recognizing the work of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote the sound management of chemicals and waste, which contributes to the prevention of pollution;

Noting with appreciation the role of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata Conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to support pollution prevention and protect the environment and health;

Also welcoming the work of the World Health Organization (WHO) on environment and health issues, such as air pollution, chemicals and waste, including on heavy metals, and antimicrobial resistance and *appreciating* World Health Assembly resolutions related to environment and health;

Welcoming the CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/6 decision on the linkages between health and biodiversity;

Recognizing the essential work conducted by collaborative platforms and initiatives to protect health and the environment;

Welcoming the work of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to assess the health of world's biodiversity through thematic, regional and global assessments;

[1] United Nations Environment Programme (2016a). *Healthy Environment, Healthy People* Thematic Report - Ministerial Policy Review Session - Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme - Nairobi, 23–27 May 2016.

Expressing our deep concern about the burden of disease from environmental risks, which according to recent estimates from WHO[2] amounts to 23% of total global deaths, and the associated costs to society;

Highlighting the findings of the report of the Lancet Commission on pollution and health that health effects of pollution are underestimated in existing calculations of the global burden of disease and that pollution, which was responsible for an estimated 9 million premature deaths in 2015, is the largest environmental cause of disease and premature deaths in the world, and causes welfare losses amounting to 6.2% of global economic output; and *concerned* that deaths associated with ambient air, chemical and soil pollution are rising[3];

Recognizing the important role of regional processes of health and environment including the Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment, the European Environment and Health Ministerial process, the African Inter-ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, the joint sessions of the Arab Ministerial councils on the environment and on health, and the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in contributing to the regional and national policy actions and in strengthening the environment governance around the environment-health nexus.

1. *Affirms* the strong inter-linkages between environment and health, including health inequalities, and the importance to address them jointly, by implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of applying the precautionary approach as set forth in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as of supporting and facilitating the regular exchange of evidence and science-based knowledge;

3. *Welcomes* the growing recognition of pollution exposure, as a key risk factor contributing to premature deaths from non-communicable diseases, that now account for seven in ten deaths globally[4], and noting such acknowledgments in the WHO's "Montevideo Roadmap 2018-2030 on Non-Communicable Diseases as Sustainable Development Priority", in Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution E/2017/L.21, and WHO's report "Preventing Non-Communicable Diseases by Reducing Environment Risk Factors;

4. *Notes* the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020, which focused primarily on behavioral risk factors, acknowledged the role of environmental and occupational hazards as modifiable risk factors for NCDs, which underscores the need for enhanced communication between the public health and environmental communities on comprehensive approaches to address NCDs;

5. *Stresses* the health benefits of addressing global environmental challenges such as air, marine, water and soil pollution, chemicals exposure, waste management, climate change, and biodiversity loss, and their interrelations, and the importance of cross-cutting and preventive approaches, including gender mainstreaming, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ecosystem-based approaches, to health and well-being, at all stages;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to work, as appropriate, with intergovernmental regional processes on health and environment, WHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),World Organization for Animal Health, UN Women, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and other relevant organizations, as well as with the secretariats of the chemical and waste conventions, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and the Rio conventions on the environment and health nexus, in order to avoid duplication and improve effectiveness;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with WHO, relevant UN entities, and stakeholders, including private sector, and subject to the availability of resources, to continue ongoing efforts to support countries, upon request, in developing integrated environment and health policies and measures, and to develop

[2] WHO report „Preventing disease through healthy environments: a global assessment of the burden of disease from environmental risks » (2016), page 86.

[3] Landrigan, Philip J., et al. "The Lancet Commission on pollution and health." The Lancet (2017).

[4] WHO, Noncommunicable Diseases Fact Sheet, Updated June 2017, http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs355/en/.

methods, tools, and guidelines to promote integrated environmental and health risk assessments, building from existing work in this regard;

8. *Encourages* Member States and stakeholders to continue engaging, as appropriate, in the work of ongoing intergovernmental regional processes on health and environment in addressing the health and environment nexus to spearhead the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals;

I
Chemicals and waste

9. *Urges* Member States to intensify efforts to achieve by 2020 goal for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, which is contained in the Sustainable Development Goals as an essential crosscutting issue for the achievement of sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment, underlining the importance of SAICM and the Overall Orientation and Guidance 2015-2020, taking into account national capacities; and *Urges* Member States to actively engage in the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

10. *Underlines* the importance for human and environmental health, including biodiversity, to avoid and minimize the risks posed by harmful chemicals in products and materials, ensuring their safe use throughout their life cycle, including their environmentally sound re-use, recycling and other recovery, or disposal;

11. *Encourages* governments and relevant actors, that have not yet done so and in light of national circumstances, to develop, adopt and implement effective measures, and as appropriate, national legislation/regulations aiming to minimize the risks posed by chemicals, including heavy metals, endocrine disruptors or pesticides, in particular to pregnant women, infants and children;

12. *Urges* parties to the Basel, Minamata, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions to implement these conventions and invites non-Parties to consider joining them;

13. *Invites* member states to increase the awareness of the risks posed to human, animal and environmental health from the improper use of fertilizers and pesticides and to promote measures to address them (EU);

14. *Invites* the governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations and the academia to further develop and implement communication strategies on the risks caused by chemical products and waste as well as to foster and facilitate access to information on those risks;

15. *Recalls* the shared responsibility of producers and downstream users throughout the value chain and *encourages* all relevant actors to implement the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle, including through developing higher standards and voluntary commitments, and strengthening efforts, for example under the Responsible Care Programme, the Global Product Strategy and other relevant programmes and strategies, in accordance with SAICM and its overall orientation and guidance;

16. *Concerned* about the environment and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and the lack of data in this regards, *requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to present a report on these impacts and ways to minimize them, in collaboration with WHO, FAO and other relevant organizations by UNEA-5;

17. *Notes* that the impacts of the long-term application of pesticides on human and environmental health, particularly if they are persistent or bio-accumulative, are not well known; and therefore Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources, and in cooperation with the FAO and WHO, to encourage research institutions that undertake studies in these areas, including national institutions, to share widely the results of related peer-reviewed epidemiological, and other relevant studies, including environmental monitoring and assessment;

[Encourages Member States in co-operation with all relevant stakeholders, including the local communities, to create awareness on use of agro-chemicals and drugs that may be toxic to wildlife.

Requests the Executive Director to work with member states, relevant UN agencies, the private sector, including industry, and civil society to raise awareness of the benefits of using lead-free ammunition.

Requests the Executive Director in collaboration with Member States and stakeholders including academia and research institutions to conduct research on market-based solutions that promote the use of chemicals and drugs that are not toxic to wildlife.

Requests the Executive Director to work with member states and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to encourage safety-testing of existing non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on scavenging species of wildlife including birds as well as possible future alternatives.] (The above 4 paragraphs include Reservations)

II
Climate

18. *Recognizes* the substantial risks posed by climate change to health, and *welcomes* the efforts undertaken to address climate change, including under the Paris Agreement adopted under the UNFCCC, as essential contributions to improve health;

19. *Recognizes* the [likely] (Reserve) increased risks of vector-borne diseases due to climate change, noting the documented increased risks of some vector-borne diseases and the lower scientific certainty associated with the risks of other vector-borne diseases, and the need for a preventive approach and integrated collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and WHO in this regard;

20. *Notes* the Marrakech Ministerial Declaration on Health, Environment and Climate Change and invites member states to also consider following up on the issues addressed in the declaration, inter alia at the next meeting of the World Health Assembly;

21. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to regularly report to the CPR on the ongoing consultations between WHO, United Nations Environment Programme, WMO and the UNFCCC secretariat on joint activities on climate change, environment and health, including on the preparation of a joint plan;

22. Also *requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of resources, to assess the health co-benefits of its current climate change-related projects, notably for vulnerable groups, and to report on the results of this work to the CPR;

III
Biodiversity

23. *Recognizes* that biodiversity loss is a health risk multiplier, including by aggravating environmental challenges and *underlines* in addition the benefits for health and well-being in protecting and restoring biodiversity, ecosystems and their services;

24. *Recognizes* that human, animal, plant and ecosystem health are interdependent; *Emphasizes* in this regard the value of the "One Health" approach, an integrated approach which fosters cooperation between environmental conservation and the human health, animal health, and plant health sectors;

25. *Encourages* Member States and invites relevant organizations to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to enhance ecosystem resilience, including by taking actions to halt biodiversity loss, and promote coordination between policies and actions aimed at improving biodiversity conservation, food safety and human health as an important safeguard for current and future health and human well-being focusing on relevant sectors;

26. *Requests* the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme to include human health factors in its projects on ecosystem valuation and accounting and, subject to the availability of resources, to assess the health co-benefits of its current biodiversity-related projects and to report on the results of this work to the CPR;

27. *Encourages* member states to facilitate dialogue between agencies responsible for biodiversity and those responsible for health and other sectors across all levels of government to consider relevant health, biodiversity linkages in developing and updating relevant national programmes and policies, strategies, plans, and in various environment and health assessments to strengthen national monitoring capacities, data collection, and to develop inter-disciplinary education, training, capacity building and research programmes;

IV
Antimicrobial resistance

28. *Recognizes* that antimicrobial-resistance (AMR) is a current and increasing threat and challenge to global health, food security and sustainable development of all countries;

29. *Welcomes* the United Nations high level meeting of the General Assembly on AMR in September 2016 and its political declaration which raised awareness on AMR at the highest political level and reaffirmed the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR, which was prepared in collaboration with the FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and adopted at the World Health Assembly in May 2015 as the blueprint for action; *Further welcomes* the efforts and investments of the WHO, other UN agencies and member states, including national action plans developed in accordance with the five overarching strategic objectives of the WHO Global Action Plan, and the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the UN interagency Coordinating Group on AMR;

30. *Underlines* the need to further understand the role of environmental pollution in the development of antimicrobial resistance, the limited availability, tools for, and use of environmental surveillance of anthropogenic sourced antimicrobials, and the limited understanding of the long term effects of antimicrobials in the environment to the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems;

31. *Notes* that human, animal and plant health and the environment are interconnected and that addressing the development and spread of anti-microbial resistance effectively requires a holistic and multi-sectorial approach;

32. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to work in close collaboration with WHO, FAO, OIE and all other relevant organizations, academia, private sector, and civil society to support efforts by member states to identify and characterize the human and animal health risk, based on the One Health approach and in line with the WHO Global Action Plan on AMR, as well as the risk to biodiversity and ecosystems, arising from anthropogenic sourced antimicrobial resistance in the environment;

33. *Also requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with WHO, FAO, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the IOMC, SAICM and the Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, and subject to the availability of resources, to prepare by UNEA-5, a report on environmental impacts of antimicrobial resistance and the causes for development and spread of resistances in the environment, including the gaps in understanding of these impacts and causes;

34. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as part of evidence-based environmental policymaking, putting in place measures, as nationally appropriate, to effectively manage waste and wastewater to minimize their contribution to antimicrobial resistance through environmental contamination, including such applicable to municipalities, agricultural industry, healthcare facilities, manufacturers of antibiotics, household detergent waste and heavy metals;

V
Sustainable consumption and production

35. *Underlines* that sustainable consumption and production, resource efficiency, life cycle approaches, sustainable finance, and other cross cutting approaches, including those supported by various governments, such as circular economy, sustainable materials management and 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), provide key system wide and preventive solutions to tackle pollution and thereby improve synergistically health and the environment;

36. *Welcomes* the report by the International Resource Panel "Assessing global resource use. A system approach to resource efficiency and pollution reduction"; underlines that environmental impacts, including pollution, cannot be effectively mitigated by focusing on emission abatement alone and calls for the development of strategies to enhance resource efficiency along the full life cycle of products; and *welcomes* further work of the International Resource Panel on the status and trends of natural resource use and management and its links with pollution and other environmental impacts, as well as on the identification of options for enhancing sustainable management of natural resources and encourages the International Resource Panel to make available reports to be considered, as relevant, at the United Nations Environment Assembly;

37. *Recommends* the inclusion of a cross-cutting monitored indicator on health and well-being impacts in the Indicators of Success Framework for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

38. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with WHO and other UN agencies, to identify opportunities for and promote sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption and production patterns that would benefit the environment and human health through, inter alia, the promotion of public health campaigns;

39. *Emphasizes* the importance of education, lifelong learning and raising public awareness, notably through measures aimed at providing Product Sustainability Information in order to stress the shared responsibility of all stakeholders including industry and allow informed choices by consumers, notes in this regard the newly launched Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information; and calls upon Member States to strengthen efforts in the areas of education, and together with the private sector, as appropriate, in training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and cooperation with regards to linkages between health and environment;

40. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to present a report on the implementation of this resolution at UNEA-4.